

# Hetton-le-Hole

Co.Durham  
1831-1931



A Short History of the Parish, and  
of the District of Hetton-le-Hole  
from 1200 A.D to 1931 A.D

By  
Rev F SMITH, M.A.,  
Rector and Surrogate,

---

PRICE 1/-

## *Preface*

*In telling this story of St Nicholas Parish Church, Hetton-le-Hole, and of the History early and late of the District and Parish, especially from the years 1831-1931, I wish to gather up the scattered bits of information that many possess and present them in this small book for the year of the Centenary Festival 1931.*

*I am much indebted to Surtees records of Durham, to Boyle's history of the derivation of the name Hetton, to the local records by Sykes and Fordyce, and to a small local diary lent to me.*

*I wish especially to thank my son, Cyril Arthur Smith, M.A. (Senior Classical Master of Blackburn Grammar School), for his help in bringing together the records from about the year 1200 A.D.-1725 A.D. and also for his help in translating the Latin Records.*

*The cost of inserting portraits and sketches, as first intended, would have made the price prohibitive, in these lean days, but I am hopeful that many may be interested by the history of their Parish and stirred up to make more use of the Church and its ministrations .*

*F SMITH*

*Hetton-le-Hole Rectory*

*September 2nd 1931*

(Note In 'typing in' this Document using "Word", I've retained the original spelling and punctuation wherever possible!.

Fred Stobbart October 2010)

## Hetton -le Hole Parish Church

1831--1931

More 100 years ago there would be found no Parish Church on the direct road between the churches of Houghton-le-Spring and Easington. These two Churches have now many daughters, and Hetton-le-Hole is one of the oldest of the daughters of Houghton-le-Spring Church.

I think the following abbreviated record, taken from the oldest Baptismal Register of Hetton Church beginning November 15th 1832, may help us with reference to the earliest Church in Hetton-le-Hole. It runs as follows;-

"Whereas, on or about . . . . the 15th of November 1825 a chapel in the Parish of Houghton-le-Spring . . . was duly consecrated and dedicated to the service of Almighty God, for the performance of divine worship according to the rites and ceremony of the United Church of England and Ireland, by the name of Hetton-le-Hole Chapel, and at the time of such consecration, the Reverend Edward South Thurlow, Clerk, M.A., was the Incumbent of the said Parish . . . . . And, whereas, under, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act of Parliament, passed in the 58th year of the reign of his majesty King George III . . . . . a separate and distinct Parish called "The Parish of Hetton-le-Hole" was formed from, and out of, the said Parish of Houghton-le-Spring, and the description of the bounds of such Parish has been duly enrolled in the High Court of Chancery, and registered in the office of the Registry of our Diocese of Durham (Act . . . &c). and that the said Rev. Edward South Thurlow, Clerk, M.A., the Incumbent of the said Parish of Houghton-le-Spring at the time of the Consecration of the said Chapel of Hetton-le-Hole - vacated the said Parish of Houghton-le-Spring on the 17th February, 1817 by death."

Given under our hand and seal April the 3rd 1847, and in the 11th year of our Translation.

E.DUNELM

MARK ELLIOT

A description of the laying of the foundation stone of the Church is given in "Syke's Local Records" as follows;--

"The Coronation day of (William IV., September 8, 1831), having been appointed for laying the foundation stone of a new Episcopal chapel at Hetton, in the County of Durham, the ceremony took place at 12 o'clock on that day.

The stone marked "Will IV., Sep 8, 1831" being lowered down, it was arranged and adjusted according to Masonic rule by G.T.Fox, Esq., of Durham, in the presence of several of the subscribers and inhabitants of Hetton; after which an appropriate address was delivered by the Reverend E.S.Thurlow, Rector of Houghton-le-Spring, in which Parish the chapel is situated. It is likely to be of great service in so populous a neighbourhood as Hetton; where there are not less than 5,000 to 6,000, mostly arisen from the establishment of the great collieries near it. The building funds arose from subscriptions of the late and present Bishops of Durham, the Dean and Chapter, and Lord Crewe's Trustees, and of sundry individuals interested in the success of the Coal mines, with grants in aid by the Parliamentary Commissions, and the Church Building Society of London."

The Church was in use till 1901. It had served its purpose well for many years, but when the population had much increased owing to developments in the coal-mining industry, and 2 daughter parishes, Lyons and Eppleton had been formed and their Churches built, the people of Hetton, during the incumbency of the Reverend A.T.Dingle (1890-93), raised £300 to restore their Church. In 1893 the Reverend C.H.Newman being Rector, it was determined to build a new Church. When £5,000, had been raised, and of this sum about £3,000 had been raised by the parishioners, the new Church was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Durham (Dr Westcott), on April 29th 1901. The Architect was Mr S Piper and the builder was Mr W Sparrow, of Hetton-le-Hole. The seating capacity is 800 and the style of the Church is Early English. The Chancel is very spacious and there are 3 rows of handsomely carved oak stalls, with canopies over Clergy stalls by Messrs R Hedley, Newcastle on

Tyne. The floor is paved with black and white marble tiles by Messrs Borrowdale of Sunderland . The tiles within the Sanctuary are white marble. On the North side stands a noble organ, built in 1907, by Messrs H.S.Vincent and Co., of Sunderland and London from the specification of my brother, Mr J Smith A.R.C.O ., and F.G.C.M. , of Bournemouth who superintended the work for 3 months and gave his services free. The organ was dedicated on January 31st, 1908, by the present Bishop of Bristol, but then Bishop of Jarrow. An immense congregation which began to arrive at 5-40 p.m. completely filled the Church long before the service at 7 p.m. The Bishop's text was Exodus xiv., 15 ; my brother was the Organist on this occasion, and Mr H.S.Vincent gave a recital afterwards.

The Organ is one of the largest in the County. Mr Andrew Carnegie gave £317-10s-0d. towards the cost, the parish raising the rest. The best parts of the old organ were included. The Organ contains 3 Manuals and Pedal Organ, and a total of 54 stops, Couplers, and Accessories; Radiating and Concave Pedals, R.C.O. and Tubular Pneumatic action throughout. It is blown by electric motor.

The Chancel East Window is by Bacon, of London, the subject being the "Transfiguration of our Lord". It was given by the late Mr T Lamb, senior who also built the Chancel and Side Chapel. The Chancel contains a Reredos and panelling of oak in memory of those who lost their lives in the Darlington Railway Disaster on the night of June 27th 1928. The reredos was given by the Mothers of the Diocese and the panelling by the parishioners and their friends. Messrs. Hicks and Charleswood of Newcastle designed both and Mr Hedley of Newcastle did the work. The dedication took place on September 11th 1929, by the Lord Bishop of Durham, and representatives of the Mother's Union were present from all parts of the Diocese. The side Chapel will hold 60 or 70 people, and the East Window in it is in Memory of the Late Nicholas Wood Esq., F.R.S. and was removed from the old Church.

Other stained glass windows are- The Queen Victoria Memorial Window, one in memory of the first Rector Rev J.S.Nichol, and one in memory of a C.L.B. member (Frederick Greenhow) who was accidentally drowned at Masham Camp Yorks. This Window was unveiled by the Bishop of Richmond and the money was subscribed by Officers and Members of the C.L.B.

The Font is of Caen Stone by Messrs. Jones and Willis of London, with four marble columns, and was given by the Mothers of the Parish.

The aisles of the Church are narrow with lofty arches and massive pillars. By means of the breadth of the nave the congregation are well placed for seeing and hearing. At the West end there is a Baptistry with 3 arches and octagonal pillars. Over this, there is a five-light window.

The pulpit is of carved oak, by Messrs. R Hedley, Newcastle, with a base of Caen stone.

The aisles are laid with wood blocks in the herringbone pattern. The choir vestry on the NW. of the Church is large and is also suitable for classes. There is a Clergy vestry at the E. end.

The Church possesses a stateliness and dignity that grows upon the worshipper and is calculated to make the worship impressive and reverent.

Whilst I was writing these notes on the Church the sad news reached me that one of our most faithful members Mr Douglas Ramsay Raine, 22 years of age, a Choriman and Communicant, has met with a fatal accident when his motor cycle skidded and came into collision with a motor lorry today

Mr Raine lived at St Nicholas House next the Church and was the second son of Mr Charles Henry Raine, who was Headmaster of the Barrington Boys C of E School and Church warden for some years of the Parish Church (1906-1909 inclusive).

Mr C H Raine, the father, also did much Church work always taking the Young Men's Bible class on Sundays, the magazine work, and was a great supporter of the C.L.B. He and his wife and family loyally supported me in this large parish. Mr C H Raine was a Diocesan Reader, and read the lessons in Church on Sundays, and in any case of emergency, was well able to conduct the whole service and preach the sermon.

After a long and painful illness, M C H Raine passed away in 1922, to the great regret and sorrow of the whole Parish where his influence as Headmaster and Churchman was widely felt, an influence which has not passed away since it was calculated to form in the boys under his charge a character founded on religion and good *leadership*?. We as a parish deeply regret this sad calamity today to the younger son, and beg to offer our sincere condolence and sympathy with the family.

## RECTORS

NICHOL., JOHN SCRYMSOUR, J.P.

Curate in Charge of Hetton-le-hole 1832 -47. Rector of Hetton-le-Hole 1847-77. He was the first Rector of Hetton- le-Hole and a local Magistrate. He died on February 20th, 1877, and was buried in Hetton Chuchyard.

"Hetton House," formerly occupied by Dr Adamson, and now by Dr Watson, was used for the Rectory till the new Rectory in Station Road was built in 1885.

RUDD, THOMAS.

Educated at Hatfield College, Durham where he took his B.A. degree with first class honours in Theology. Priest 1871. Built the present Rectory House in Station Road, 1885. Rector of Hetton-le-Hole 1877-89. He died on Christmas Day 1889 and buried in Hetton Churchyard.

DINGLE, ARTHUR TREHANE.

Was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where he won the the Careswell Exhibition and took his B.A. with Theological Honours, and his M.A. degree in 1885, Ordained 1883. Priest 1884. Curate of Monkwearmouth 1883-90. Rector of Hetton-I-Hole 1890-93. Org. Sec. S.P.G. for the Archdeaconry of Durham 1895-1903. Vicar of Silksworth 1893-1904. Rector of Egglecliffe 1904. Org. Sec. for S.P.G for the Arch Deaconry of Auckland 1905.

NEWMAN, CHARLES HENRY

Was educated at St John's College, Cambridge. B.A. 1883, M.A. 1886. Ordained 1883. Priest 1885. Curate of Tanfield 1883-1887. St Helen's, Low Fell 1887-93. Rector of Hetton-le-Hole 1893-1903, and Surrogate. Vicar of St.Mark's, Sunderland 1903-19022, and Surrogate. Played for Cambridge university Rugby xv . and was an International Rugby Player. The new Church was built in Mr Newman's time.

SMITH, FREDERICK

Educated at the Perse School, Cambridge and at Corpus Christi College Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree with Classical Honours in 1884. M.A. 1892., Ordained 1890. Priest 1892. Curate of St Mark's, Millfield 1890-95.. St John's Hebburn-on-Tyne 1895-7. All Saints', Monkwearmouth, 1898-1903. Rector of Hetton-le-Hole since 1903. Surrogate 1904. Sometime Classical Master and organist at Reading School, where a grandson of the first Rector of Hetton was one of his pupils. This boy's father (Rev J.G.S.Nichol, late Vicar of Ampthill) was baptised in Hetton Church.

### Curates.

Thomas Dodson.	1859-63.	G.S.Skene.	1894-8.
Johnathan Plumbstead.	1863-65.	A. T. Williams.	1898-1901.
Thomas Percival.	1866-8.	W. C. D. Feddon.	1901-1903.
William Spoor.	1868-70.	J. E. Perry.	1903.
John Steel.	1871-74.	C. E. Hoyle.	1903.
M. J. Sisson.	1875-76.	J. Shores.	1903-4
Henry Wilson.	1877-78.	M. Fairhurst.	1904-6.
William P. Thomas.	1879-83.	J. Griffiths.	1906-7.
J. C. Hamilton.	1879-83.	P. D. Bailey.	1908-11.
Andrew Blair.	1883-86.	W. W. Charlton.	1912.

A. E. Holme.	1886-88.	J. F. Townson.	1913-16.
A. E. McNay.	1889-90	W. N. Coghlin.	1917-20
F. Palgrave.	1890-93	W. Bowker.	1893-4.

Since the Consecration of the Church in 1832, the total statistics are as follows:--

Baptisms	...	...	...	...	12,999
Marriages	...	...	...	...	2,713
Burials	...	...	...	...	12,166

### DIOCESAN LAY READERS.

C. H. Raine (until 1922) Diocesan Teacher).  
 E. Barwick.  
 J. W. Corner.

### ORGANISTS PAST AND PRESENT.

T. Emmerson (who received two guineas annually)  
 W. Lamb.  
 Mrs Lloyd.  
 T. Snithson.  
 J. N. Wetherell (Sub-Organist)  
 R. Nichol.  
 R. Hickman.

### CHURCH CLERKS and VERGERS since 1847.

G. Wilkie.	J. Wright
W. Boggan.	T. Smith.
G. Emerson.	R. Gatenby.
W. Boggan.	

The first Churchwardens (1847) were Messrs. Swan and Edger.

The estimated current church expenses were £ 20-15-0 and it was proposed and seconded that the Parish Clerk have a salary of £5 per year (from Vestry Meeting Book)---"resolved that a rate of one penny in the pound be allowed to defray the expenses for the ensuing year.

### ADDENDA.

#### THE DAUGHTER PARISHES.

**LYONS**, or Easington Lane, was formed from Hetton-le-Hole and Pitlington in 1869. St Michael's church consists of nave, chancel, aisles, south porch and vestries. The seating is for about 600. The registers date from 1870. There is an oak reredos and panelling in memory of those who fell in the Great War, and a Clock Tower was also erected by the parishioners in the Front Street as a memorial. The population is probably about 6,000.

Rectors: Revs. R.G. Hutt, J. R. Brown, Dr. Taylor , and W. L. N. Law (since 1909).

**EPPLETON**. or Hetton Downs, was formed from the Parish of Hetton-le-Hole in 1883. All Saints Church, built of red brick, etc., consists of nave, chancel, aisles, and a large vestry, porch,

etc. There is a carved oak screen, and the E.window is of painted glass. The seating accommodation is about 650. The registers date from 1887.

Rectors;- Revs, W. H. Illingworth, R. Hindle, D. Cowling and G. Salisbury.

-----  
**INSCRIPTION ON BRASS IN HETTON CHURCH.**

This Church was erected to the Glory of God by the people of this Parish on the site (enlarged) of an old one, built in 1831. It was consecrated by The Lord Bishop of Durham (Dr Brooke Foss Westcott) , on April 29 1901.

Charles H. Newman Rector.

C. H. Hodgson.            Churchwarden.  
R. D. Cochrane.        Churchwarden.

Lindsay Wood            Building Committee.  
T. Lamb.                Building Committee.  
J. G. Willis.            Building Committee.  
J. Robinson.            Building Committee.

-----  
The Head Masters of the Barrington Schools during the last 30 years have been:- J. Robinson, Charles H. Raine, and H. B. Brittain.

-----  
In closing this short record I am conscious how imperfect such a record must be, compressed within a few pages, and owing also to its hurried preparation. I take this opportunity of sincerely thanking all those who have in various ways, greatly lightened the burden of carrying on the work of this large Parish, by kind assistance, viz. :. The Hon . Francis Bowes Lyon, D.L . , J.P., one of whose ancestors, John Lyon, grandson of the 8th Earl of Strathmore, lived at Hetton Hall in 1812, The Hetton Coal Company, Ltd., and The Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Collieries , Ltd., the late Revd. Prebendary H. E. Fox, and the many who were and are Churchwardens of this Parish.

If the question is asked ---"What has the Church done during the last 100 years by its sons and daughters," ? perhaps they might humbly reply--", If you demand a monument or proof, look around."

**THE DARLIGTON RAILWAY DISASTER**

A copy of the notice which appeared in the July, 1928 issue of the Church Magazine.

The awful disaster on the railway at Darlington on June 27th which has bereft us of 14 Mothers and Mr Gough, will forever remain in our memory - then there is the addition of three badly injured - Mrs. Carter, Mrs Tait, and my wife. My thoughts since that anxious journey to Darlington at 3 a.m., have ever been with those who were cut off so suddenly, and those who hardly escaped death. It is difficult to say anything at such a time of agony which can give solace, but the marvellous sympathy shewn by the many hundreds of letters and wires from the whole of the British Isles and abroad, including their Majesties, The King and Queen, Bishops, Deans, Clergy and their wives, 400 Mother's Unions, Nonconformist Churches, various Civic and other organisations, show us also that "If one member suffers all the members suffer with it", and that we were in the thoughts and prayers of many thousands of people. It was estimated that 60,000 people came to pay their last tribute of respect at the Sunday Funerals, and enormous crowds came on the Saturday and Monday, and showed by their orderly bearing that they realised the solemnity of the occasion.

## BURIALS

June 30	Lily Race aged 33	July 1	Mary Ellen Harker aged 33
June 30	Sarah Maddison, aged 53 years	July 1	Martha Smith aged 55
July 1st	Margaret Thomson Aged 51 years	July 1	Hannah Todd aged 32
July 1st	Alice Boulton, aged 38 years.	July 1	Isabella Taylor Foster aged 52 years.
July 1st	Mary Watson aged 37 Years	July 1	Mary Ellen Bones Aged 44 years.
July 1st	Sarah Young aged 46 Years.	July 2	William Henry Gough aged 58 years
	July 2... Ann Beckwith aged 42 years	July 2	Mary Jane Gough Aged 38 years
June 30 .....	....Carlotta Blackburn 45 years.		

**Note :- A memorial tablet was carved into the wooden altar screen remembering those of the Mothers Union who died in the Darlington Train Disaster. The screen including the tablet was destroyed when the church was consumed by fire in November 2006.**